

REMARKS

This is in response to the Official Action currently outstanding with regard to the above-identified application, which Official Action the Examiner has designated as being FINAL.

Claims 6, 7, 10-19, 22-36 and 38-40 were pending in this application at the time of the issuance of the currently outstanding Official Action. By the foregoing amendment, Claim 7 has been amended, and Claim 6 has been canceled, without prejudice. No claims have been added, and no claims have been withdrawn. Accordingly, in the event that the Examiner grants entry to the foregoing amendment, Claims 7, 10-19, 22-36 and 38-40 will constitute the claims under active prosecution in this application.

The claims as they will stand in the event that the Examiner grants entry to the foregoing amendment are set forth above as required by the Rules.

In the currently outstanding Official Action, the Examiner has:

1. Acknowledged Applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 USC 119 (a) – (d) or (f), and confirmed the receipt by the United States Patent and Trademark Office of the required certified copies of the priority document therefor;
2. Indicated that the drawings as filed on 26 February 2004 have been accepted;
3. Provided Applicant with a copy of a Form PTO-892 listing an additional reference apparently cited by him as being pertinent to Applicant's disclosure;

4. Indicated that Claims 10-19, 22-36 and 38-40 are allowed;
5. Rejected Claim 6 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by the Katayama reference (US Patent 5,875,167); and
6. Indicated that Claim 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of its base claim and any intervening claims for the reasons stated by Applicant in its response of 3 January 2005.

Also, in an Advisory Action responding to Applicant's First Amendment After Final Rejection dated 3 August 2005, the Examiner has refused to enter the Amendment therein proposed by Applicant.

Further comment with regard to items 1-4 above is not deemed to be necessary in this Response.

With respect to item 5 above, in the interest of advancing the present prosecution, Applicant herein now proposes that Claim 6 be canceled, without prejudice. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that in the event that the Examiner grants entry to this Amendment, the only outstanding substantive rejection currently present in this application will become moot.

Finally, with respect to item 6 above, Applicant respectfully notes that the foregoing Amendment presents Claim 7 in independent form including all of the limitations of its base claim (Claim 6) and any intervening claims. Accordingly, in view of the Examiner's comments in the currently outstanding Final Official Action, Applicant respectfully submits that in the event that the foregoing proposed amendment of Claim 7 is granted entry by the Examiner, that claim will be in condition for allowance in accordance with 37 CFR 1.116.

In summary, therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that in the event that the Examiner grants entry to the foregoing Amendment, all of the claims that will remain pending in this application (i.e., Claims 7, 10-19, 22-36 and 38-40) will be in condition for allowance as required by 37 CFR 1.116. Accordingly, a decision granting the entry of the foregoing Amendment and allowing Claims 7, 10-19, 22-36 and 38-40 as hereinabove amended in response to this communication is respectfully requested.

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Finally, Applicant believes that additional fees over and above the fees submitted herewith are not required in connection with the consideration of this response to the currently outstanding Official Action. However, if for any reason an additional fee is required, a fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, you are hereby authorized and requested to charge and/or credit Deposit Account No. **04-1105**, as necessary, for the correct payment of all fees which may be due in connection with the filing and consideration of this communication.


Respectfully submitted,

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